



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief, Office of Public Safety
Interim Director of Internal Services

At its meeting held August 10, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“On Friday, July 23, 2004, an unfortunate stabbing incident occurred at the Department of Public and Social Services’ (DPSS) Wilshire Special office on 6th Street in my District. Apparently, the suspect and victim were acquaintances and had a personal dispute between them. The suspect was arrested and the victim is doing well.

“The follow-up investigation conducted by the Office of Public Safety (OPS) revealed that the weapons screening machine was malfunctioning and had at least one grid area which was not registering metallic objects. This particular machine was calibrated approximately six months prior to this incident. An initial review of other screening machines operated by OPS officers at various other County facilities was conducted and revealed some other mechanical problems.

“Los Angeles County is responsible for the safety of its employees and clients conducting business at County facilities. Now that we have been made aware of potential problems involving these screening machines, we have the duty and obligation to test, calibrate, repair, and replace as needed. There is also a need for some standardized protocol for these types of tests.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief, Office of Public Safety to work with the executives and facilities management staff of their client departments for which they perform weapons screening, as well as the Interim Director of Internal Services to test, calibrate and repair immediately all weapons screening machines;
2. Instructed the Chief, Office of Public Safety to establish, within 30 days, a written protocol on the testing methods, including frequency of testing, to be used as a County standard; and
3. Instructed the Executive Officer of the Board to notify the Sheriff and the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Superior Court of the problem since the weapons screening machines which are being utilized at the Courts are similar to the one that malfunctioned at the Department of Public Social Services.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Personnel
Director of Public Social Services
Executive Officer/Clerk of the Superior Court

Letter sent to:

Sheriff